



Remembering Srebrenica is the organiser of the UK events for the European Union-designated Srebrenica Memorial Day, which takes place annually on 11 July. Alongside this, the charity conducts a campaign to raise awareness of the Srebrenica genocide.

Now 20 years on, Remembering Srebrenica is raising awareness of this genocide in the UK. We work with people to help strengthen British society by learning how an integrated society in Bosnia-Herzegovina disintegrated and led to the horror at Srebrenica. By learning the lessons of history, we can help tackle hatred, racism and intolerance wherever it occurs.

We do this by taking individuals from communities across the UK to Srebrenica to speak to survivors and families whose loved ones were killed. We are committed to sending 750 individuals on our 'Lessons from Srebrenica' programme of educational visits over a two-year period. Each and every individual pledges to take action on their return to Britain that will strengthen and improve their community. Their activities are designed to raise awareness of the risks of hatred, racism and intolerance, using Srebrenica as an example of an integrated society that disintegrated.

Remembering Srebrenica is a charitable initiative, part-funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government and supported by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

What happened at Srebrenica?

When the six republics that made up Yugoslavia disintegrated into civil war in 1991, Serb ultra-nationalists led by Slobodan Milošević drove Croats and Muslims out of parts of Bosnia and Croatia that they hoped to incorporate into 'greater Serbia'.

By the spring of 1993, Srebrenica was one of six towns across Bosnia-Herzegovina where Serb forces besieged the Bosnian Muslim inhabitants. The United Nations (UN) Security Council declared Srebrenica the first internationally protected 'safe area', promising to protect its 60,000 Bosnian Muslim inhabitants.

The Council then declared five other besieged towns and cities across Bosnia 'safe havens' with UN member states asked to contribute 37,000 peacekeepers to demilitarise and defend them. This was eventually scaled back the number to just 7,600 soldiers.

From 1993 to 1995, first Canadian and then Dutch peacekeepers defended Srebrenica. By July 1995, only 400 lightly-armed and poorly supplied Dutch peacekeepers remained in the town. The enclave fell to Bosnian Serb forces on 11th July 1995. General Ratko Mladić and his soldiers marched into Srebrenica and began systematically murdering Bosnian Muslim men and boys – just for who they were.

Fearing a massacre, thousands of Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) men and boys set out on foot across woodlands, rivers and mountains to try to reach safety in Tuzla – over 60 miles away. Mladić's troops blocked roads, carried out ambushes, and used stolen UN vehicles and uniforms to trick them into surrendering.

Over the next 10 days, Bosnian Serb forces killed 8,372 Bosnian Muslims from Srebrenica at execution sites ranging from warehouses to farms. They buried their victims' bodies in mass graves, before digging up the corpses and re-burying them in new locations as they tried to conceal evidence of the atrocity.

What we're doing in 2015

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide. The United Kingdom's Srebrenica Memorial Week runs from Sunday 5 July to Sunday 12 July.

We are working with councils, schools, religious and civic institutions to mark Srebrenica Memorial Day with local commemorations across the UK. These events bring together different sections of the community to remember and honour the victims of genocide in a collective act of remembrance.

Events will take place in cities and towns across the UK to mark Srebrenica Memorial Day. We are holding the national UK event at Westminster Abbey, in London, on Monday 6 July. Memorial events are also taking place at the Senedd, in Cardiff, on 8 July and St Giles' Cathedral, in Edinburgh, on 10 July.

There will be memorial days, school assemblies, exhibitions, lectures and conferences, a football tournament, inter-faith dialogue, community and social projects happening across the UK. British delegates will also join the 'Peace March' in Srebrenica in July.

Our Regional Chairs and organisers are working hard lining up events across the UK - from Bradford to Birmingham and Stoke-on-Trent to South London. Our theme this year is '**Living the lessons**' – allowing survivors to tell their stories so that:

- Survivors can keep alive the memory of Srebrenica, teaching younger generations the consequences of hatred and intolerance. They can help combat hatred, as well as genocide denial and allow us to better understand what it's like to live with the atrocity's legacy; and
- People taking part in our activities can explain the impact of their involvement, highlighting how they have engaged with other community groups to foster stronger community relations. They can demonstrate key work they have done in their communities to help tackle hatred and intolerance.

We are calling on UK communities to:

- **REMEMBER** the victims and survivors of the Srebrenica genocide;
- **LEARN** the lessons from Srebrenica, particularly that we must always be vigilant against hatred and intolerance in our communities; and
- **PLEDGE** to take action now to build better and safer communities for all.

People can do this by:

- *Organising a memorial event*
- *Becoming a delegate*
- *Becoming a volunteer*
- *Making a pledge*
- *Making a donation*

Our **8-3-7-2 Srebrenica Memorial Tournament** aims to unite 8372 young people in 380 schools to play football on the same day – Friday 5th June. Bosnian international goalkeeper Asmir Begović is Tournament ambassador. The event encourages pupils to learn lessons from the genocide, with the figure 8372 representing the number of individuals who lost their lives.

We have also developed **education packs** which will reach 20,000 pupils by 2016. These allow teachers to use the lessons from Srebrenica in *Personal, social and health education (PSHE)* classes to illustrate how genocide can grow if hatred and intolerance are left unchecked. Over 3,000 school children have also benefited from memorial assemblies.